

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 NSCE-00 OES-09
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 041

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 08175

FOR SECRETARIES VANCE AND SCHLESINGER

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, IR
SUBJ: AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

1. DURING MY AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH ON AUGUST 28 HE
INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO SIGN THE NUCLEAR BILATERAL
WITH THE UNITED STATES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND IRAN'S
INTEREST IN WORKING WITH AMERICAN INDUSTRY TO GAIN ENERGY
INDEPENDENCE FROM FOSSIL FUELS.

2. I AM DISTRESSED TO LEARN THAT THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
STUDY OF OUR BILATERAL NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN HAS
NOT BEEN COMPLETED AND THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT YET HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THIS MATTER IN ORDER TO EXTEND
AUTHORITY TO SIGN. AS I RECALL, ALL RELEVANT DEPART-
MENTS WERE INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR EACH
NEGOTIATING SESSION AND I CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS
TAKING SO MUCH TIME TO CLEAR THE BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES.
THE AGREEMENT MEETS THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE
SHAH CONCERNING MOST FAVORED NATION TREATMENT OF
IRAN AND AT THE SAME TIME IS AN EXCELLENT ONE WITH
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RESPECT TO PROLIFERATION.

3. THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED FOR THE SIGNATURE
CEREMONY AND WE HAVE A WINDOW THE FIRST HALF OF SEPTEMBER
DURING WHICH DR. ETEMAD, WHO WILL SIGN FOR GOI, WILL BE
IN IRAN. IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER WE CAN MEET THE
60-DAYS LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT IN THIS CONGRESS, BUT

I FEEL WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DO SO IN THE
EVENT THE CONGRESS IS CALLED BACK INTO SESSION AFTER
THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS. EVERY DAY COULD COUNT AND I
URGE THE BUREAUCRATIC MACHINERY BE GIVEN SOME IMPULSE.

4. AS YOU KNOW, THE SHAH IS GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF
QUESTIONING ABOUT HIS RELATIONS WITH US. THE WILD
WEASEL DECISION WAS DISAPPOINTING TO HIM AND A LONG
DELAY IN THE SIGNING OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT WOULD
BE SEEN BY HIM, HOWEVER ERRONEOUSLY, AS ANOTHER INDI-
CATION THAT THE U.S. IS NOT TAKING IRAN SERIOUSLY.
THE SHAH AND THIS COUNTRY HAVE BEEN GOING THROUGH,
AND WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO DO SO, A DIFFICULT PERIOD
WHICH WILL ADD TO HIS UNCERTAINTY. A SIGNING OF THE
AGREEMENT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE WOULD BE SEEN BY HIM
AS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN WHAT HE IS TRYING TO DO.
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Message Attributes

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